

# Problem of Women education and the condition of Women in India

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**Abstract:** Women education is very important for the proper social and economic growth of the country. Both men and Women are like two sides of the coin and they are equally like two wheels of the society. So both are necessary element of the growth and development in the country thus requires equal opportunity in the education. If anyone of both do not get proper education and oppertunaty, social progress is not possible. The female education in India is very necessary for the future of the country as women are the first teachers of their children means future of the nation. If educations of the women are getting ignored, it would be the ignorant of bright future of the nation. Uneducated women cannot actively participate in handling the family, proper care of the children and thus weak future generation. Lack of women education weakens the powerful part of the society. So women should have full rights for the education and should give proper education. They should not be treated as inferior to men. This paper tries to pick up the pictures of actual condition and social restriction problems which are mainly facing by Indian women in taking their education & all other important sectors of the country. This paper also tries to discuss proper & suitable necessary procedure for solving & removing this great problem.

**Keywords:** Women education, sexual harassment, dowry system, mental torture, suitable curriculum deficiency, lack of social consciousness, disparity in education, child marriages, domestic violence etc.

**Introduction:** Girl children are valuable assets of parents. After getting suitable education they become helping hand and earning members of their family. In future female child takes more care of their old parents than male child. In recent times in our society being educated women decide to struggle like men by helping their family for earning money and select various important occupation such as doctors,nurses,police force, teachers, professor, civil officers etc.Now-a days ,even politics they play a vital role. In many states of India, M.P members, political leaders even chipministrers are also women like Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal. Women are valuable thing of our country as they give birth to the future generation. If they would be well educated they would give rise educated future generation and thus healthy social and economic condition in India. The girls are very useful at home for carrying out domestic duties and so mothers are reluctant to send them to school. A large number of girl Childs in the rural areas are undernourished, they hardly have a square meal a day. In India the vast majority of the people are poor. They cannot afford to give education to all their children. When the choice comes, they prefer to invest on the education of sons rather than their daughters. It is believed that the sons will help the father in old age and on the other hand some time the girl will get married. She will go to some other family. So they do not care much for women education. Women are main backbone of our society .But in the country like India women are facing several difficulties for taking their education and most of them are neglected and deprived from education. Main problems in women education are domestic duty, social factors, conserve action mentality, lack of Girls school or co-educational school, lack of adequate educational facilities, & women teachers, lack of supervision & proper guidance, lack of adequate incentives, defective curriculam, child marriage & unmatiore pregnancy, women trafficking etc.One of the major problems of India society is the inferior position accorded to women. They do not enjoy equal status and their condition is far from satisfactory. In our country due to conservative traditionalism, women's status has been considered to be lower than that of men. During the latter part of the Vedic period, the Aryans had sealed the fate of women culturally and socially by denying them the right to study. They were regarded as the bond slave to men for their economic dependence on them. Even today in spite of the recognition of women's status equal to that of men, the majority of them suffer in primitive ignorance of women's as ever before. Illiteracy and ignorance is exist more in women folk than men folk and this evils specially is seen in rural areas and backward communities. India is also a powerful nation and the largest democratic country is the world. Even though women backwardness is also very crucial problem in the Indian society because of the social issues, problems and lots of restrictions against women. Taking birth as women in the Indian society has been considered as curse for the family. Women in India face lots of social issues and problems all through the life which are big struggle for them right from their beginning of life. Female infanticide is the most common practice of killing girl child in mother's womb in the Indian society. Women in India are considered as burden for their parents and husbands for their thinking .They think that women are only to consume money whole life without earning a little bit. Thus women in the Indian society generally face problems of education, sex discrimination, high percentage of illiteracy, female infanticide, dowry system etc. Though the government in recent time has been taken many steps for eradicating difficulties in education, condition, status and position of Indian women still now certain problems remain in this sector. This study tries to highlight the real problems faced by women in Indian society in education & other sectors and find out the ways for solving the problems.

**Objectives of the study:** The objectives of the study are-

- 1) To study about condition of education, status and position of women in India.
- 2) To know about the problems of Indian women and their misery conditions.

- 3) To know about the history of women condition, education and position in different period of various ages in India.
- 4) To analyze the nature of the problem and to give the actual picture of women torturing and suffering in Indian society.
- 5) To suggest the measures for the upliftment of women and removing their problems in Indian society.
- 6) To put forward an ideal model for developing the women's condition and compare it with the total women position in India.
- 7) To put forward recommendations for solving the women's problems and improving women's status in India.

**Methodology of the study:** The data will be collected from primary and secondary source in India. The primary data will be collected with the help of interview and survey method. The primary data will also be collected from a sample survey among the different women in various villages & urban areas, various working women in different sector, girls schools & colleges, ladies' working hostels & other girl's hostels, various slum areas in cities. The information has been collected through observation in different families in various villages & towns, judging the condition of women in those families and taking interview by asking various questions to the women members of those families. Here the sampling technique is judgment sampling and sample units are various women in different classes & sectors. The conclusion has been made on the basis of these information and by analyzing data. For evaluating the objectives of the study the secondary data will be collected from the various sources such as books, journals, reports, websites, university libraries, planning commission, govt. publications (central & state), state & district wise statistical office, various women social organization & NGOs like mahila samity in different areas, women development organization & committees etc.

**Statement of the problem:** Education is a basic human right that should be exercised fully in all nations but for many girls in India attending school is not an option. A girl's education is an essential starting point in establishing equality everywhere. Male inheritance and property ownership, early marriage, dowry, honor crimes, lack girls' education witch hunting, violence against women and trafficking are all serious issues in the country. There are schools but most girls do not attend often because of religious reasons or cultural pressures. In India, Women are facing many problem like selective abortion and female infanticide, dowry and bride burning, domestic violence, disparity in education, child marriages, inadequate nutrition, sexual harassment, domestic violence and status in the family, status of widows, military service, equal pay for equal work, property rights, rape, acid attacks, dowry deaths and torture, family & society pressure, fear of missing out, lack of formal education, female feticide and infanticide respectively. Among them the main problem is education problem. Due to lack of education they cannot raise their voice. Their educational problems are development of immorality, lack of suitable curriculum & social consciousness among women, scarcity of lady teachers, lack of proper physical facilities, unwillingness of lady teachers to serve in rural areas, financial difficulties, problem of transport, wastage & stagnation, problem of co-education, lack of enthusiasm and interest of the officials in charge of education etc. The Indian government's measures can help the whole process of providing primary schools for girls. At the same, timings and nonprofits work at a local scale where a difference can be made whereas the government has worked on a larger scale with less success. The education of girls and women is an integral part of national development. Mother is the pivot of family life in India. Our way of life depends on her. Still, there is a big gap between the education of the boys and girls. To remove this problem the government should organize social awareness programme in villages and towns to understand the people about the necessity of women education. This is not enough, Society people's help and participation is necessary to achieve fully success. Educated women may easily handle her family, make each family member responsible, infuse good qualities in children, participate in the social works and all would lead her towards the socially and economically healthy nation. Women education is like an effective medicine to cure a patient completely and provide health back. Educated women are the weapon who kept positive impact on the Indian society through their contribution at home and professional fields. They are the reason of improved economy in the country as well as society. An educated woman has capacity to control her home and professional life. They can effectively contribute in controlling the population of India as they would like to marry at a later age in comparison to the uneducated woman. In spite of certain individual examples of individual achievement of Indian woman and improvement in their condition over the last one hundred years it remains true that our woman still constitute a large body of under-privileged citizens. The problem of women's education in India is one which attracts our attention immediately. In our country, due to conservative traditionalism women's status has through ages been considered to lower than that of men. Women were regarded as the bond slave to men for their economic dependence on them they were deprived from their fundamental human rights. Even today the majority of them suffer in primitive ignorance as ever before in spite of the recognition of women's status equal to that of men. Illiteracy and ignorance exist more in women than in men and this evil is prevalent especially in rural areas and backward communities. In ancient time history of India is full of brave women & philosophers like Gargi, Viswabara, Maritrey of Vedic age and other famous women like Mirabai, Durgabati, Laxmibai etc. Those famous women are inspiration for the women of this age in modern India. We never forget their contribution to the society and country. The women education in ancient India was quite good but in the middle age women condition was deteriorated because of many restrictions against women. So it is the duty of society's people to give equal opportunity to them in all respect & sector especially education like men and they should not be isolated from any developmental activities. If women are uneducated, then the half country is uneducated which creates poor socio-economic condition of the country. The culture and tradition of India is considered as old and great all over the world where people used to worship various female goddess, saints and poets. But the condition of women is very measurable and undesirable in India till today. After independence also women condition has not been improved. Most of women come from poor class section and they are not given any right in society. They remain in dark. They do not enjoy freedom. So they do not take any important decision themselves. Women belong to the lower and middle class family suffers more than the women of higher class family. Women in the Indian society have been

considered as inferior as men for many years. Because of such type of inferiority they have to face various issues and the problems in their life. They have to go extra way than men to prove themselves equivalent to men. In the middle age women were never allowed to go outside and participate in the social activities like men. Still in the modern age women have to face many problems in their daily life and struggle a lot to establish their career. Still there are many parents who prefer to have only boy baby and allow education to boys only. Women for them are only medium to keep family happy and healthy. Women are considered in the society only to perform duties like bring up children, caring every family member, and other household activities. They are old traditional faith of people coming out for years that men are for working field whereas women are only for the home. In early age this women were facing a lot of problems because of male dominated, patriarchal society system, practice of old traditional believes etc. Women were only responsible to the traditional roles like child bearing and child rearing. Earlier women were facing problems like child marriage, sati pretha, restriction to widow remarriage, widows exploitation, devadasi system etching this time Raja Ramona Roy and pundit Iswarchandra Bidhyasagar struggled a lot for women right against the Hindu society's ritual. Sati path was banned by the British government with the help of Raja Ramona Roy. Vidhasagar also introduced widow marriage by passing law with the help of British government. He also tried for women education and wrote many books for them. Similarly many great personalities like them in this time also tried to do something for women betterment. People remember their contribution well, but in case of judgment of women's right in society, women are deprived off and discriminated than men. However almost all the traditional problems have been disappeared gradually from the society. Even now women are continuously facing many problems in respect of self-confidence, individuality, self-respect, personality, capacity, talent and efficiency more than men. They are facing problems in their daily life even after they are given equal rights and opportunities like men by the Constitution of India. Now-a-days women are breaking all the barriers of social issues and problems against them in the society. In modern world, where women status has been improved a little while still they are facing problems. In some cases they have to perform both family and professional responsibilities together for financial assistance of their family. Even though the condition of women become more embraced when they are tortured by their family members instead of getting help. Sexual harassment is more common at homes as well as in the offices by the family members, relatives, neighbours, friends, boss etc. They have to suffer a lot in their daily life to make their career as well as maintaining their family relationships. A woman is seen in the society with more intense ridicule sight and become at higher risk of honor killing if she is involved in the love marriage. They do not have equal access to autonomy, mobility to outside the home, social freedom than men. Sometime, women are killed by their family member due to incapability of dowry payment or demanding a large amount from their family. In these cases they are forced to die by burning, hanging or by any other means. They are sexually and mentally tortured. In many cases they cannot tolerate and take the decision of suicide to finish their life. Thus bride burning become a serious problem in modern days. Moreover there are many agents who sell the unmetered poor girls by taking money in big towns. They are frauded in the name of work by the agents and beside this many husband sells their wives to other person for money. They are forced to sell their body for earning money. Moreover in most of the big cities, women works as bar dancers in many night clubs, bars and hotels for financial help of their needy family. They are often sexually harassed and tortured in those areas. However a lot of positive changes have occurred in the women status as the number of educated people is increasing in the country. But till today women are facing many problems in society.

**Reasons for Problems of women in India:** There are various issues and problems which women generally face in the society in India. Some of the problems are described below:

**1) Selective abortion and female infanticide:** In many family girls children are treated as burden and male children are preferred for family inheritance. In Hindu society after death, only male children are allowed to fire the dead bodies of their parents in burning gnat's female children become a curse for family. In those family abortion of female fetus is performed in the womb of mother after the fetal sex determination and sex selective abortion is done by the medical professionals.

**2) Sexual harassment:** In many cases, sexual harassment and exploitation of women and girl child is done at homes, streets, public places, transports, offices, by the family members, neighbors, friends or relatives, friends, boss etc. In every ten-rape case, six are of minor girls. In every seven minutes a crime is committed against women. Every 26 minutes a woman is molested. Every 34 minutes a rape takes place and sexual harassment incident occurs. Every 43 minutes a woman is kidnapped and every 93 minutes a woman is burnt to death over dowry. One quarter of the reported rape victims are under the age of 16 but the vast majority are never reported due to fear of facing social stigma.

**3) Dowry and bride buring:** It is another problem generally faced by women of low or middle class family during or after the marriage. In most of the cases parents of boys demands a lot of money from the bride's family for marriage. In many cases, groom's family torture bride physically & mentally and perform bride burning, hanging and other death incident in case of lack of fulfilled dowry demand or demanding more money from their family. Thus they think women as earning assets and becoming greedy, oftenly kill them for more money without caring any law. In 2005 around 6787 dowry death cases was registered in India according to the Indian National Crime Bateau reports.

**4) Violence against women:** Women are facing the various violence almost every day which is disturbing their life. At every moments of time, women are being victims of violence because of increasing crimes against women. They are facing domestic violence within their family by their husband, relative or other family member for dowry related harassment, death, marital rape, wife-battering, sexual abuse, deprivation of healthy food, female genital mutilation etc and outside the family for kidnapping, rape, murder etc.

**5) Disparity in education:** women are neglecting during childhood and gender bias of people generally goes towards male child. For the want of a male child an unborn girl is killed even before she gets a chance to see the world. Thus, the murdering of an unborn girl child is termed as female foeticides which is a common picture in almost all the villages. In India present sex ratio is only 923 females per 2000 males. While male children is welcomed with open arms, negligence and carelessness is shown in rearing up of girl children. Naturally they are suffering from the problems of disparity in education, inadequate nutrition, lack of love and affection from their birth time. They think those as their common fate and tolerate them. So the death rate for female child from infancy till the age of 15 is far exceeds the mortality rate for male child. The parents prefer education more in case of male child than woman child. Male Children are given every facility for going schools and they are encouraged for higher education like professional and technical education. So women education is far less than men still in the modern age. Female illiteracy is higher especially in the rural areas where 63% women are illiterate.

**6) Gender discrimination:** Women are considered as weaker section of the society than men and given less importance. So gender discrimination is shown in case of girls children. There are also discrimination of power and work between men and women because of the patriarchal system families in India. Girls have no property rights like boys forever. Women are considered as inferior to men so they are not allowed to join military services. In many family women are not allowed for job or service and not giving permission for higher education. After completing the minimum qualification necessary for marriage like H.S exam or graduation they are forced to marriage to maintain their family responsibility and tradition. So this gender discrimination affects women in the areas like nutrition, education, healthcare, decline of female population, job, public life etc.

**7) Early marriage:** Early marriage is common problem since many years in India especially for poor and middle-class family in rural and urban areas. Girls Children are getting married before attaining full mental and physical maturity. So maternal mortality is common in that area. In rural India almost 70% of girls are married before they are 18. Nearly 56% of married girls bear children before they are 19.

**8) Status of widow:** Widows are considered as worthless in the Indian society. They are treated poorly and forced to wear white clothes.

**9) Problems related to employment:** Women are facing more problem in searching their suitable work. They have to tolerate exploitation and sexual harassment in the work areas. They are given more work and hard tasks by their boss intentionally and they have to prove their devotion, seriousness and sincerity towards work time to time.

**10) Other problem:** Uneducated women are more prone to divorce and desertion by their husbands on any stage of life. They have to live whole life with fear of divorce. In some cases they have to finish their life because of unbearable conditions. More over they faces many problems like mistreatment, women trafficking, eve teasing etc.

#### **Recommendations and government's measures for improving the women's condition:**

The reason of backwardness in the Indian society is because of the lack of proper women education and various social restrictions against women in India which need to be overcome immediately otherwise society have to bear a great loss. To remove this social evils and improve status of women education, the government have been adopted various schemes & programmes for giving encouragement to them in proper education and betterment of their condition like Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan, Indira Mahila Yojana, Balika Samridhi Yojana, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Employment & income generating-cum-production centres, programme of development of women and children in rural areas etc. There are various government initiatives for improvement of women education which are as follows-

1) The government should pass punishable law and should implemented them strongly otherwise people will avoid them easily. According to Marriage Legislation and the child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 appropriate marriage age for women child is restricted at the age of 18 and for male child, the age is 21 years. Marriage before this should be punishable. The government has been introduced many acts for marriage purposes like The Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Act-1946, Hindu Marriage Validity Act-1949, Hindu Marriage Act-1955, Special Marriage Act-1954. According to the Hindu Marriage Validity Act, 1949 divorce is not granted without wife's concerns and marriage registry is compulsory. Recently Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has prohibited "three times talak system" in Muslim community.

2) To prevent dowry system, the government should pass special act. In this case the dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has become famous. Under this act taking large amount of money at marriage time from bride's family or dowry system is banned. Despite this in many places this system is running smoothly and freely.

3) The government should pass special act for widows women. Recently the Hindu Widows Remarriage Act, 1956 has been passed for remarriage of the widows again.

4) The government should also organize socio-economic programming in many villages and town areas specially in slum areas for convincing and understanding people about the necessity of women education. More schools and colleges should be established for girls students separately and special seat should be reserved for girls students like ST, SC and OBC. Special scholarships should be given for meritorious girls students. Health programmes should also be arranged in rural and urban areas at free of cost by the government for health checkup for women specially girls child and pregnant mothers.

5) Women are financially weak and depended on their husband. For their financial help the government should arrange special employment area for them. Beside this housewives and other poor women should give training for self employment and should give loan facility at subsidized rate. Proper social and financial support system needs to be created.

6) Injustice begins at home. So women upliftment should start at the root level. Social stigmas and taboos need to be death with.

7) To prevent sexual harassment the government should introduce special laws and apply them strictly. The rap doing persons should give strong punishment like hanging death or life time jail. Moreover bride-burning, bride-killing, wife-battering should be treated as illegal activity. Abortion of female fetus in mother's womb and sex selective abortion should be strictly prohibited.

8) Recently The government has been introduced various women development programmers which include Rural women's Development and Employment Project, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, Indira Mahila Yojna, Balika samriddhi Yojana, Plan of Action to combat Sexual Exploitation of women and children, National Commission for Women, National Women Fund, Mahila Samriddhi Yojana etc. In state of West Bengal, the state government has introduced 'Kanasri Prakalpa' for girl child under which every unmarried girls students are given Rs 40,000 after completing their mature age of 18 and are given Rs 1000 as scholarship in every year during their education. The central government also has introduced "Susana Samridhi Yojana". Under this scheme at the time of birth, parents can deposit some amount of money in the name of their girls child for marriage or education purposes and receive those money after getting mature at the age of 18 of their girl child.

9) For removing gender discrimination women should give priority in working sector. The women labors should be exploited and should give equal wage for equal work like men laboring case of property right also they should be given equal right in father's property after death. Recently Indian government has passed this law.

**Conclusion:** Women contribute a large portion of human life. Women empowerment plays a vital role for country's development because women cover a great percentage of country's population. Without women, one cannot think life. So women welfare is necessary for society and country's development and growth. An educated woman can educate her whole family and thus whole country. So to spread women education and to improve their condition social awareness programmes as well as proper initiative & major steps are taken to be necessary in all over the country. For this, not only the government's initiative and policy are enough, but also social people's participation and cooperation is necessary. Only then removing this problem from the root level will be fully successful.

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